



U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Middle District of Georgia

Post Office Box 1702
Macon, Georgia 31202

Phone: 478-752-3511
Fax: 478-621-2604

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2005

CONTACT: SUE McKINNEY

GUILTY VERDICT
ALBANY CITY COMMISSIONER HENRY MATHIS

Albany: United States Attorney Maxwell Wood announces the guilty verdict today for **HENRY MATHIS**, Albany City Commissioner, after the five day jury trial and a two hour jury deliberation. MATHIS was found GUILTY on all four counts of the Indictment charging the suspended Commissioner with three Hobbs Act violations (extortion) and one count of engaging in misleading conduct with intent to prevent the communication of information relating to a federal offense (lying to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation).

The evidence at trial was that Mathis extorted money from businessman Joe McDonald after assisting him in obtaining a beer license for the O.R.M. Paradise Club in Albany, Georgia. When questioned about this transaction by agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Mathis denied ever receiving any money from either McDonald or the club.

Further testimony at trial showed Mathis likewise extorted and attempted to extort money from Dora Wilson and James Hadley in connection with a trucking/waste disposal contract with the City of Albany, Georgia which would be beneficial to Southwest Carting, Inc., a company in which Wilson was a principal and for which Hadley served as manager.

MATHIS faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000. fine on each count. Sentencing will be scheduled by the Honorable W. Louis Sands, District Judge, Middle District of Georgia.

Wood stated: "The jury's guilty verdict speaks for the citizens of Albany; violations of trust by elected officials will not be tolerated".

The investigation of this case was conducted by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Mike Hill and the case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Alan Dasher.

Questions concerning this matter should be directed to Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorneys Office, at (478) 621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Maxwell Wood by G. F. Peterson, et

MAXWELL WOOD
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY